IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 6, 13, 17, 18 and 20 are amended. Claims 2-5, 7-12, 14-16 and 19 are carried forward, all as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A stitch tab scrap stripper comprising:

a pivot arm having a stripper segment and a biasing segment;

a pivot shaft on said pivot arm intermediate said stripper segment and said biasing segment, said pivot shaft ~~being adapted to~~ pivotably securing ~~secure~~ said pivot arm to a stitch tab die cutting block, said stitch tab die cutting block being securable to a slotter roller of a box blank slotter;

biasing means engaging said biasing segment of said pivot arm and exerting a biasing force on said biasing segment, said biasing force opposing movement of said stripper segment with respect to said stitch tab die cutting block about said pivot shaft; and

stitch tab scrap engaging means on said stripper segment and spaced from said pivot shaft ,said stripper segment of said pivot arm acting to eject a stitch tab scrab severed from a box blank in response to movement of said biasing segment about said pivot shaft, said stripper segment being moved away from said stitch tab die cutting block during rotation of the slotter roller of the box blank slotter.

2. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 1 further including a journal on said pivot arm, said journal supporting said pivot shaft.

3. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 1 wherein said biasing means includes a resilient member.

4. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 3 wherein said resilient member is a resilient strip.

5. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 3 wherein said resilient member is a spring.

6. (Currently Amended) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 3 further including a biasing stud connecting said resilient member to said stitch tab ~~a~~ die cutting block.

7. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 6 wherein said resilient member is a coil spring.

8. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 7 wherein said biasing segment has a free end spaced from said pivot shaft, and a hole at said free end, said biasing stud passing through said hole.

9. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 8 wherein said coil spring is positioned about said bolt and contacting said free end of said biasing segment.

10. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 7 further including a spring retainer block.

11. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 10 wherein said coil spring is positioned intermediate said spring retainer block and said biasing segment of said pivot arm.

12. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 1 further including a fulcrum block on said biasing segment of said pivot arm.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ stitch tab scrap stripper ~~of claim 12 further including~~ comprising:

a pivot arm having a stripper segment and a biasing segment:

a pivot shaft on said pivot arm intermediate said stripper segment and said biasing segment, said pivot shaft being adapted to pivotably secure said pivot arm to a die block;

biasing means engaging said biasing segment and exerting a biasing force on said biasing segment, said biasing force opposing movement of said stripper segment about said pivot shaft;

stitch tab scrap engaging means on said stripper segment and spaced from said pivot shaft;

a fulcrum block on said biasing segment of said pivot arm; and

a leading, sloped camming surface on said fulcrum block and a trailing, planar camming surface on said fulcrum block.

14. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 1 wherein said stripper segment and said biasing segment are co-planar.

15. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 1 wherein said stripper segment and said biasing segment are not co-planar.

16. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 1 wherein said stitch tab scrap engaging means is at least one stripper pin positionable adjacent an outboard end of said stripper segment.

17. (Currently Amended) A stitch tab scrap stripper adapted for use in stripping stitch tab scraps severed from box blanks in a rotary box blank slotter comprising:

a stitch tab die cutting block securable ~~adapted to be secured~~ to a rotary male slotter head ~~and~~ , said stitch tab die cutting block having a die block body;

a stitch tab cutting knife mounted in said die block body;

a pivot arm secured to said die block body, said pivot arm including a stripper segment having a first free end and a biasing segment having a second free end;

a pivot connection between said pivot arm and said die block body, said pivot connection separating said pivot arm into said stripper segment and said biasing segment; and

biasing means engaging said die block body and said biasing segment of said pivot arm, said biasing means exerting a force on said biasing segment and opposing movement of said stripper segment with respect to said die block body, said movement of said stripper segment with respect to said die block body acting to eject a stitch tab scrap severed from the box blank by said stitch tab cutting knife in response to said movement of said stripper segment during rotation of the rotary male slotter

head of the rotary box blank slotter.

18. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ stitch tab scrap stripper ~~of claim 17 wherein~~ adapted for use in stripping stitch tab scraps from box blanks comprising:

a die block adapted to be secured to a male slotter head and having a die block body;

a stitch tab cutting knife mounted in said die block body;

a pivot arm secured to said die block body, said pivot arm including a stripper segment having a first free end and a biasing segment having a second free end, said first free end of said pivot arm being ~~is~~ adjacent said stitch tab cutting knife;

a pivot connection between said pivot arm and said die block body, said pivot connection separating said pivot arm into said stripper segment and said biasing segment; and

biasing means engaging said die block body and said biasing segment, said biasing means opposing movement of said stripper segment.

19. (Previously Presented) The stitch tab scrap stripper of claim 17 wherein said biasing means moves said stripper segment in a stitch tab scrap stripping direction.

20. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ stitch tab scrap stripper ~~of claim 17 further including~~ adapted for use in stripping stitch tab scraps from box blanks comprising:

a die block adapted to be secured to a male slotter head and having a die block body;

a stitch tab cutting knife mounted in said die block body;

a pivot arm secured to said die block body, said pivot arm including a

stripper segment having a first free end and a biasing segment having a second free end;

box blank engaging means on said first free end of said pivot arm;

a pivot connection between said pivot arm and said die block body, said pivot connection separating said pivot arm into said stripper segment and said biasing segment; and

biasing means engaging said die block body and said biasing segment, said biasing means opposing movement of said stripper segment.